(b) if so, whether all the States are implementing these instructions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to make them to accede to the instructions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Instructions were issued to the State Governments in 1965 that apart from the grant of business loans to repatriates from Burma, priority may also be given to them in the matter of grant of licences, permits, etc. where these are required for any occupation or trade.

(b) No instance of non-implementation of these instructions has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

High Breed Cows and Buffaloes

1541. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to absence of high breed bulls and buffaloes in Uttar Pradesh especially in the hilly areas, the breeds of high yield milk cows and buffaloes are not available;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to launch a special programme for the high breed cows and buffaloes in the Uttranchal areas of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The State Government has 12 bull mother farms for production of cattle and buffalo bulls and crossbred bulls, including one bull mother farm at Dehradun which produces Sindhi and Jersey Red Sindhi crossbred bulls for breeding and producing high yielding animals.

(b) and (c) The State Government has taken up distribution of milch cows and buffaloes under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Mini Dairy and the Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas programmes. In addition to the efforts of the State Government for cattle and buffalo development, Government of India has provided Central grant for improvement of cattle and buffaloes during the current Plan period under the National Bull Production Programme and Extension of Frozen Semen Technology Scheme.

[English]

Tissue Culture

1542. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the propagation of tissue culture in the country;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the arrangements made to teach the techniques of tissue culture to the common farmer in the country; and

(d) the names of the food, fruits and vegetable crops most likely to be benefited by the adoption of tissue culture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 70 commercial micro-propagation units have been registered for the production of tissue culture plants for both export and domestic markets. Out of these 30 units are already in production, producing about 40 million plants in fruits, plantation crops, ornamental crops, forestry plants, etc. annually, against an installed annual capacity of 110 million plants.

(c) Tissue culture being a specialised hi-tech area, entrepreneurship development in this area is being done by Department of Biotechnology particularly through their proposed programme of establishment of Micropropagation Technology Parks.

(d) Tissue culture technology had already been commercialised in crops like Potato, Sugarcane, Banana, Strawberry, Citrus, Papaya, Sweet Potato, Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, etc.

[Translation]

Freedom Fighter Pension

1543. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial assistance and facilities are being provided to the family members of freedom fighters pension holders after their death;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria/procedure laid down for determining the eligibility of their dependents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, widows, unmarried/unemployed daughters, mothers and fathers of the deceased freedom fighter pensioners are treated as eligible family members/ dependents for the purpose of family pension and other facilities provided by the Central Government. In genuine and deserving cases, dependents of freedom fighters who are not eligible for grant of pension are also considered for grant of financial assistance from Home Minister's Discretionary Grant.

Details of other facilities that are provided by the Central Government to the family members of deceased freedom fighters' pension holders are as under :

(a) Facility of free railway passes (Ist Class) to the widows/attendant, for life time.

(b) Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and also in the hospitals run by the Public Sector Undertakings under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to them.

(c) The spouse of the freedom fighter residing in the Government accommodation allotted to the freedom fighter shall be entitled to retain the accommodation even after the demise of the freedom fighter for the stipulated period of allotment.

(d) Facility of telephone connection, subject to feasibility without installation charges and payment of only half of the rentals.

Infiltration

1544. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Antankiao va Taskaro ko khaki vardi dhari officero ka samarthan" appearing in "Dainik Jagaran", dated December 31, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the steps taken to curb such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) According to information provided by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the matter is under enquiry.

[English]

Income Limit for Social Welfare Schemes

1545. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the hike in price index the Government propose to enhance the annual income limit for availing the benefits under various social welfare schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. However, in the case of Post-Matric Scholarship for SC's and ST's, the income ceiling has been linked to the consumer price index for industrial workers and will be revised once in two years.

Diversion of Forest Land

1546. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for diversion of forest land for marble mining in Banaskantha district; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to clear the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approval for diversion of 190 ha. of forest land for marble mining in respect of 44 parties operating at Ambaji in Banaskantha district in Gujarat has been accorded on 27.1.97 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Agrarian Violence in Bihar

1547. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have made some recommendations to deal with the agrarian violence in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has implemented those recommendations;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government of Bihar had demanded more Central forces to deal with the problem; and

(e) if so, the details of the force demanded and provided to the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has not responded so far.

(d) and (e) The State Government has requested for deployment of 15 Coys. of CRPF for a period of 45 days to deal with terrorist activities in the State. However, it has not